

COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO TUBERCULOSIS CONTROL PROGRAM
2002 FACT SHEET

1. Worldwide, tuberculosis (TB) is one of the leading infectious killers of youth and adults. Almost two billion people (one third of the world) are infected with TB. Each year there are eight million new cases of TB disease and two million TB deaths.
2. Nationally, the number of TB cases in the United States declined for the ninth straight year. During 2002, a total of 15,078 cases were reported nationwide, representing a 6% decrease from 15,989 cases in 2001. Cases among individuals born outside the United States increased from 4,925 (22% of the national total) in 1986 to 7,544 (51% of the national total) in 2002.
3. San Diego County reported 326 cases of active TB in 2002 (case rate 11.2 per 100,000 population). This represents a 2% decrease from 2001 (332 cases). The number of cases in 2002 was 30% lower than 1993 (469 cases), the year with the highest number of cases in decades.
4. By HHS Region, case counts and case rates (cases per 100,000 population) were as follows: North Inland 40 (7.7), North Coastal 22 (4.4), North Central 72 (11.5), Central 75 (15.4), East 22 (4.5) and South 95 (22.2).
5. The average age of TB cases in San Diego County was 44, and ranged from 0 to 96 years of age. Persons aged 25 to 44 made up the largest group of TB cases with 130 (40%). However, as a proportion of the population at risk, the 65 and older age group (62 cases) had a higher case rate (18.2 per 100,000) compared with the 25 to 44-year age group (13.8 per 100,000).
6. The racial and ethnic breakdown of San Diego County TB cases was 154 (47%) Hispanic, 99 (30%) Asian/Pacific Islander, 46 (14%) White non-Hispanic and 27 (8%) Black non-Hispanic.
7. TB cases born outside of the United States comprised 69% of San Diego County's cases. Of the 224 foreign-born cases, 96 (43%) were from Mexico, 105 (47%) were from Asia (including 62 from the Philippines, and 16 from Vietnam), 15 (7%) were from Africa and 3 (1%) were from Europe.
8. There were 10 cases of TB reported among children less than five years of age in San Diego County (3% of all cases). This represents a 74% decrease from 1993 (39 cases). TB in children of this age is of concern because it suggests ongoing transmission of infection from adults to children.
9. TB drug susceptibility information was obtained on 268 (82%) cases. Resistance to at least one of the four major first-line drugs was found among 23% (62) of these specimens. Multi-drug resistant strains were found in 2% (6) of the cases. Although the percentage of such cases has not risen in recent years, vigilance in diagnosing these cases and close monitoring of treatment is of extreme importance because of the difficulty in successfully treating such strains and the risk of spread within the community.
9. General estimates are that 10% of the United States population is infected with TB. Based on these numbers, approximately 300,000 persons in San Diego have TB infection, of whom 10% (30,000) will go on to develop TB disease at some time in their lives without treatment.